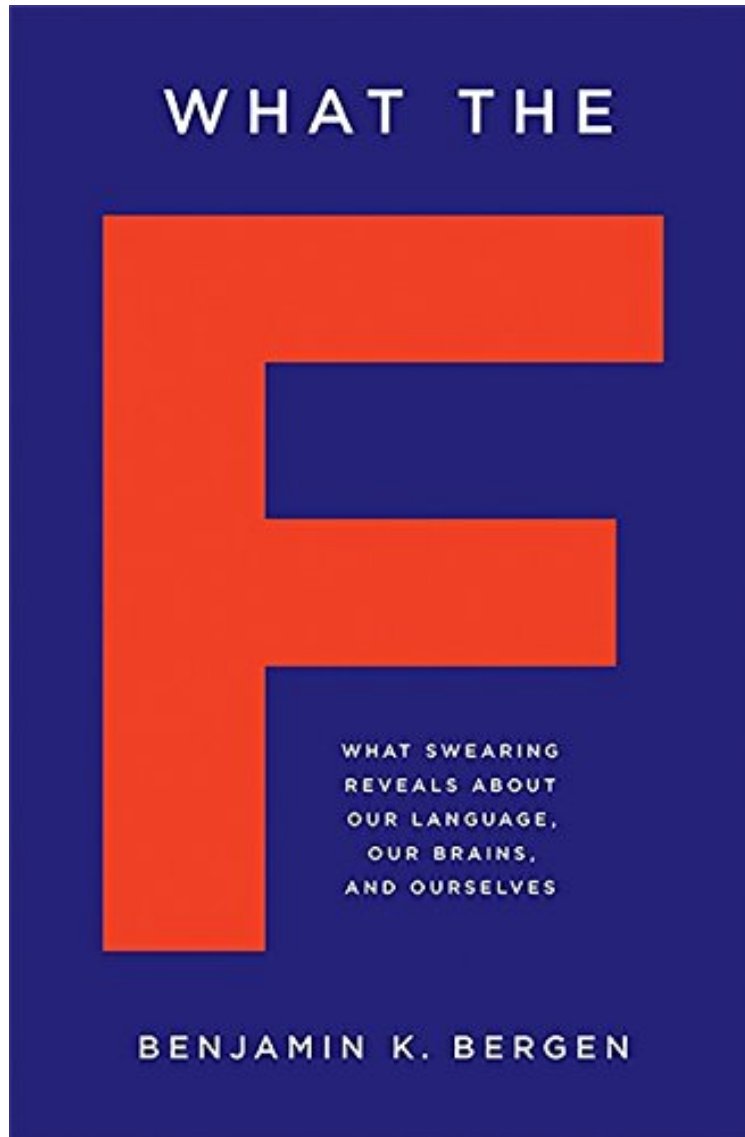


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What the F: What Swearing Reveals About Our Language, Our Brains, and Ourselves

Benjamin K. Bergen

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Benjamin K. Bergen : What the F: What Swearing Reveals About Our Language, Our Brains, and Ourselves before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What the F: What Swearing Reveals About Our Language, Our Brains, and Ourselves:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good coverage of basic language features of swearing By Jack

Murray On the whole, I really appreciated the light Bergen shed on the role swearing plays on our basic emotions. The Tourette syndrome example shows how deeply ingrained swearing can be and beyond conscious control. Being a former French professor and very fluent in French, I found that swearing in French has features that are quite different from the standard model Bergen seems to set up. I wonder how well he knows non-English languages. (The suggestion that the Japanese don't swear, on the face of it, strikes me as preposterous.) I do recommend this book to the non-specialist, although specialists might find it quite enlightening in spite of the pop style Bergen seems to use. Some of the brain experts might protest against his adherence to the distribution of functions to certain parts of the brain. But that's totally beyond my ken. Or interest, for that matter. 27 of 27 people found the following review helpful. A must-read for those love language By Helen Companion If you are looking for a crude look at crude language, this is not the book for you. However, if you are interested in a well-researched and well-written look at why words or concepts are considered taboo in our culture, then this is an excellent read. It is quite academic, which I appreciate; Bergen takes the time to thoroughly prove all of his points and even address the counter-arguments. There are perhaps moments when it verges on crude; it is a book about profanity, after all. But, overall, I was more than impressed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Donna kuhfuss It's very small writing the book is ok

It may be starred, beeped, and censored--yet profanity is so appealing that we can't stop using it. In the funniest, clearest study to date, Benjamin Bergen explains why, and what that tells us about our language and brains.

"A sweeping book, exploring not just the history of English profanity in words and in gestures, but also the impact that swears and other taboo words can have on the human brain...a valuable addition to the literature about profanity."